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**State of Vermont  
Public Service Board  
MEMORANDUM**

To: E-Mail Service List re Rule 5.500

From: Jake Marren, Mary Jo Krolewski, and John Gerhard

Date: April 21, 2017

Subject: Notice of Workshop

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On April 25, 2016, the Vermont Public Service Board (“Board”) opened a proceeding to adopt revisions to Board Rule 5.500 regarding interconnection procedures.<sup>1</sup> On September 16, 2016, the Department filed draft rule text. Participants in this rulemaking are hereby provided notice that Board staff will conduct a workshop to discuss this draft on **Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10:00 AM**. The workshop will be held in the Susan M. Hudson Hearing Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 112 State Street in Montpelier, Vermont, and will be recorded by a court reporter. The workshop will address the following issues.

1. Should interconnection applications be filed through the Board’s electronic document management system (ePSB)? The Department proposal appears to contemplate ePSB being the mechanism for filing interconnection requests. Staff would like to discuss whether it is more appropriate for interconnection requests to be filed using other procedures, such as filing requests directly with the interconnecting utility.
2. Should utilities be allowed to interconnect projects that fail the fast track screening criteria using the “Supplemental Review process” as opposed to traditional interconnection studies? The Department proposal would allow the utilities to interconnect proposals that fail fast track where “known solutions” are available to interconnect the system. The rule does not define what “known solutions” are or when this Supplemental Review process would be invoked as opposed to requiring more traditional interconnection studies. Staff would like to better understand this part of the Department’s proposal.
3. Should the Board adopt model agreements? Under the current version of Rule 5.500, the Board was supposed to adopt model agreements for various interconnection situations (i.e., a model System Impact Study agreement). The Department proposal contains

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<sup>1</sup> This proceeding was opened in response to a petition from the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”). No rule text has been proposed with the Vermont Secretary of State.

similar requirements. Staff would like to understand what agreements are currently being used and whether Board-adopted models are still necessary.

4. Should the amount of the application fee be set in the rule or in a tariff? The Department's proposal increases the application fee from \$300 to \$600. Board staff would like to obtain information from the electric distribution utilities to document the basis for this cost increase. Staff would like to consider whether each utility should adopt an interconnection application fee by tariff as opposed to the Board setting a state-wide fee by rule.